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PRESS RELEASE

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(Denver, CO)-- A group calling itself The Amendment Coalition filed language with the Missouri Secretary of State on Wednesday that would put an anti-gay constitutional amendment on the Missouri statewide ballot in November 1994.

The amendment is modeled after one adopted in Colorado in November 1992. It would bar the state, cities, and other government units from enacting laws protecting people from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. In Missouri, four cities--St. Louis, Kansas City, Festus, and Columbia--have such laws that bar discrimination in housing, public accommodations, and employment on the basis of sexual orientation.

Coalition leader Kerry Messer predicted his group would spend $500,000 to $2 million total on the petition drive and election campaign. Messer, who lives in Festus, is a lobbyist for Missouri Family Network, which he describes as a "networking organization for conservatives with traditional family values."

The group has to gather 115,000 signatures of registered voters in six of the state's nine congressional districts by July 8, 1994. Messer said the campaign will circulate petitions at churches and civic gatherings throughout the state.

Similar petition drives are under way in Oregon, Idaho, Washington state, Michigan, California, Florida and Maine.

In other news, CFV Executive Director Kevin Tebedo has taken CFV's "Community Watch Seminars" on a national tour. Tebedo spoke to the Youth Action Coalition (YAC) at Linden Christian High School in Bellingham, Washington on June 12, 1993. YAC, along with the help of the Reverand Gary Small, raised $2,000 for Tebedo to speak to 150 people on "The Gay Agenda, Its Threat, and What Christians can do about it."

In his presentation, Tebedo urged Washingtonians to pass a Colorado-style initiative because "there can be no compromise or peaceful coexistence with homosexuals." He then outlined a step-by-step approach to begin a state-wide campaign.

"If you think about it, the question boils down to who is bigger than whom? The game of politics is simply who has got the biggest bat and who can swing the fastest," said Tebedo. Tebedo's presentation was video taped for state-wide distribution.

Tebedo has also made appearances in Topeka, KS, Kansas City, MO and will speak in Vincennes, IN on June 24.

"This just goes to show that CFV is not only concerned about Colorado. They are part of a national crusade to change American democratic principles so that a specific group of citizens can be excluded from participating in the political process," said Lawrence Pacheco, spokesperson for Equality Colorado, a group that is fighting Colorado's Amendment 2.

Equality Colorado is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting social justice and protecting the civil rights of all people through research, outreach and community organizing.

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